

Historical Moments in Newborn Hearing Screening

1965 - Babbidge Report (Report to the Secretary of HEW). 1

- Recommended the development and nationwide implementation of "universally applied procedures for early identification and evaluation of hearing impairment."

1967 - Recommendations from the National Conference on Education of the Deaf 2

- High-risk register to facilitate identification.
- Public information campaign.
- Testing of infants and children 5-12 months of age should be investigated.

1988- Commission on Education of the Deaf 3

- Reported the average age of identification for profoundly deaf children in the US was 2 ½ years.

1988 - An advisory group of national experts convened by the U.S. Department of Education and Bureau of Maternal and Child Health for the purpose of advising the government about the feasibility of developing guidelines on early identification. 4

- Recommended that the federal government fund demonstration projects to expand and document systematically the cost efficiency of proven techniques already in existence but infrequently used.

1988- Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a challenge 5

- That by the year 2000, 90% of children with significant hearing loss be identified by 12 months of age.

1990- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH)- Position Statement 6

- Recommended that high-risk infants be screened prior to their discharge from the hospital and no later than 3 months after their birth.

1990 - Healthy People 2000 7

- Goal: To reduce the average age at which children with significant hearing impairment are identified to no more than 12 months by year 2000.

1993- National Institutes of Health(NIH) Consensus Development Program 8

- Recommended all newborns be screened for hearing loss before leaving the hospital.

1994- The JCIH Position statement 9

- Recommended that "all infants with hearing loss should be identified before 3 months of age and receive intervention by 6 months of age."

1999- The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses:10

- Universal newborn hearing screening.
- Detection of hearing loss before three months of age.
- Intervention services initiated by six months of age.

2000- The JCIH Year 2000 Position Statement:11

- Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs.

References

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- 3) Commission on Education of the Deaf. Toward Equality: Education of the Deaf. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988.
- 4) Advisory Group on the Early Identification of Children with Hearing Impairments. Minutes of the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health/Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Advisory Group on the Early Identification of Children with Hearing Impairments. Washington, DC: Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. 1988.
- 5) Mauk G.W., Behrens T.R. Historical, political, and technological context associated with early identification of hearing loss. *Seminars in Hearing*, 1993;14: 1-17.
- 6) Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. 1990 position statement. *American Speech/Language Hearing Association*, 1991; 33(Suppl. 5): 3-6.
- 7) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. *Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990.
- 8) National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Statement. Early Identification of Hearing Impairment in Infants and Young Children, 1993; 11(1):1-24.
- 9) Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. 1994 position statement. *Pediatrics*, 1995; 95: 152-156.
- 10) American Academy of Pediatrics Newborn and Infant Hearing Loss: Detection and Intervention. *Pediatrics* 1999; 103(2): 527-530.
- 11) Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. 2000 position statement